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Reactions of college admissions officers to the idea of setting up coaching courses to help high school students achieve higher scores on CEEB tests. Overwhelming majority of respondents feel that coaching is ineffective and immoral, and that the practice should be discouraged.

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Roslyn Public Schools
Roslyn, New York

April 8, 1960

M E M O R A N D U M

Subject: Coaching Courses for CEEB Tests

To: Professional Staff

From: William Rosengarten, Jr.

The attached Summary of Responses to Questionnaires sent to College Admissions Officers on December 3, 1958 presents the reactions of college admissions officers to the idea of setting up coaching courses purporting to help high school students achieve higher scores on CEEB tests.

It is hoped that these personal expressions of the college officials who must deal with the end-product of coaching courses, added to the findings of the experimental investigations sponsored by the College Board, will help school administrators and teachers arrive at sound, tenable opinions regarding the desirability of instituting coaching courses in the public schools.

WR:eon
Att.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
Office of Education

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ED000304

Summary of Responses to Questionnaires

sent to

College Admissions Officers

on December 3, 1958

Letters and questionnaires were sent to one hundred eighty-four colleges and universities listed in The College Handbook, 1957-8, published by the CEEB, to ascertain the reactions of admissions officers to special programs of coaching for College Board tests. One hundred sixty-four, or eighty-nine per cent replied as of this writing. A tabulation of their responses follows:

Question	Yes	No
1. Are you in favor of coaching courses for the College Board Tests?	4	150
2. Do you have a preference for students who have taken such coaching courses?	1	154
3. Do you have evidence indicating that students who have taken coaching courses do actually score higher?	10	146
4. Do students who have taken coaching courses achieve more success in college?	1	93
5. Do you feel that students who have NOT taken coaching courses are at a disadvantage?	6	145

The overwhelming majority of the responses unreservedly reject the idea of setting up coaching courses to prepare students for the College Board tests. A sampling of comments are quoted here:

> This (coaching) is contrary to their (CEEB Tests) purpose and is considered unethical.

> If we knew a candidate had been coached, we would disqualify him.

I would penalize such applicants for their stupidity if I didn't believe that their wasted time automatically took care of the penalty.

We tend to "think down" the scores of students who have taken coaching courses.

So much emphasis on tests leads the students to panic.

Coaching is a "racket."

Heartily disapprove....

I tend to decry such courses!

The hypocrisy...inherent in CEEB coaching hurts those who indulge in it.

We want candidates who take tests as a natural part of learning.

I think such a program would be basically immoral.

To coach for a specific test is both useless and dishonest.

We are interested in young men who will think their way through college rather than just remember their way in.

It is no service to the student to have him admitted to a college beyond his ability.

Let's get rid of these schools and courses.

If we know that a school is giving special preparation for the exams, we are likely to count this as a negative factor.

Many more comments like these could be quoted. College admissions officers believe that coaching is not only ineffective, but also harmful and immoral, and that the practice of coaching should be discouraged.